



Left to right: **Christina Carter** from Canada doing marsh bird monitoring at **Cuyahoga Valley National Park**; **Marvin Torrez**, from Nicaragua, at **Bandelier National Monument**, with a sharp-shinned Hawk; and **Pablo Herrera**, from Guatemala, also working at **Bandelier**, with an Orange-crowned Warbler.

Park Flight Accomplishments: July-September 2006

During the July through September 2006 period, the Park Flight program arranged for five Latin American biologists to work at four National Park Service units in the - Bandelier National Monument, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Park – as well as at Canada's Point Pelee National Park.

Canadian Biologist Assisted Cuyahoga Valley and Point Pelee

Christina Carter from Canada participated in a three-month international internship for the Park Flight Migratory Bird Program, shared between Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio and Point Pelee National Park in Ontario. Point Pelee, which lies at the southernmost tip of mainland Canada on Lake Erie, shares many migratory species with Cuyahoga Valley and both national parks have been identified as Important Bird Areas. Cuyahoga Valley and Point Pelee have been developing a relationship and discussing shared species and other similar issues since 2004. Christina participated in ongoing ecological monitoring (primarily bird and butterfly monitoring) in both parks, assessed similarities between existing monitoring activities in both parks, and evaluated the potential for coordination and standardization of monitoring between the parks. The Cuyahoga Valley portion of the internship was facilitated through the NPS Office of International Affairs International Volunteers in Parks program; the Point Pelee portion was through the Parks Canada volunteer program.

Salvadoran and Panamanian Biologists Assist Golden Gate/Point Reyes

Ana Sofia Trujillo Peraza from El Salvador and Darién Montañez Tello from Panama participated in a three-month international internship for the Park Flight Migratory Bird Program project at Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area, in cooperation with project partner PRBO Conservation Science (Point Reyes Bird Observatory). Based at the Palomarin Field Station, Sofia assisted with standardized mist-netting, banding, and interpreting these operations to the public. Darién assisted with the migratory bird education and outreach program to the public, children, and teachers, including local Latino communities, and assisted with banding demonstrations. Sofia has collaborated on migratory bird monitoring in Salvadoran national parks with Park Flight partner SalvaNaturra, and with the MoSI (Monitoreo de Supervivencia Invernal) program which measures over-wintering survival of migratory birds in the Neotropics. Darién has been involved with Park Flight partner Panama Audubon Society as a bird guide, bird watching course instructor and bird monitoring assistant in Panamanian national parks and Important Bird Areas. This technical exchange was coordinated through the NPS Office of International Affairs International Volunteers in Parks program.

Nicaraguan and Guatemalan Biologists Assist Bandelier

Marvin Tórrez Gutiérrez from Nicaragua and Pablo Herrera Urrutia from Guatemala participated in a three-month international internship for the Park Flight Migratory Bird Program project at Bandelier National Monument. Marvin and Pablo assisted with mist-netting and banding of neotropical migratory birds during fall migration, working with NPS staff and community volunteers in the field. In cooperation with project partners Pajarito Environmental Education Center and Hawks Aloft, they also provided bird-oriented interpretive programs for school children and adults, including banding demonstrations and leading field trips to Bandelier for Spanish-speaking and Native American pueblo children of Los Alamos County and nearby areas. They also gave presentations on the bird conservation work being done in their home countries. In Nicaragua, Marvin has assisted with bird monitoring in protected areas at Chocoyero – El Brujo and Volcán Mombacho, both Park Flight project locations, and the MoSI (Monitoreo de Supervivencia Invernal) program (see above) in El Jaguar, a private reserve. In Guatemala, Pablo has worked with priority migratory birds on a regional conservation project for the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler and on monitoring stopover sites for the rare Cerulean Warbler. This technical exchange was coordinated through the NPS Office of International Affairs International Volunteers in Parks program.

The Park Flight Migratory Bird Program

The Park Flight Migratory Bird Program is a partnership between the National Park Service, National Park Foundation, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, made possible by a grant from the National Park Foundation with generous support from American Airlines. The program, which contributes to the Partners In Flight project, will support the National Park Service in its avian conservation efforts by promoting the mutual exchange of ideas and conservation expertise across international borders and support of bird conservation and education projects. Grants will be awarded to U.S. national parks through the National Park Foundation, and awarded to Central American parks and protected areas through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, for projects focused in two program areas related to shared neotropical migratory birds: 1) migratory species assessment, protection, and management; and 2) migratory species interpretation, environmental education and outreach.

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